

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert on page 1, after the title:

D¹ ~~This application is a national phase application filed under 35 U.S. C. §371 of PCT Application No. PCT/EP97/07339, filed December 12, 1997, which claims priority to European Patent Application No. 96 402719.7, filed December 12, 1996~~--

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 22-23, with the following amended paragraph:

D² "Figures 19, 20 and 21 illustrate the restriction map of SEQ ID NO: 13 [14] (all sites: figure 19(A)-(F); unique sites only: figure 20 and figure 21)."

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 24-25, with the following amended paragraph:

D³ Figure 22 illustrates a sequence comparison of SMBP (SEQ ID NO: 15) with known proteins (Arabidopsis Emp70 protein (SEQ ID NO: 16), hMP70 protein (SEQ ID NO: 17), multimembrane spanning p76 protein (SEQ ID NO: 18), GenBank No. D87444 protein (SEQ ID NO: 19) and *S. cerevisiae* Emp70 protein (SEQ ID NO: 20)).

Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 10, line 26, and bridges to page 11, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

D⁴ Figure 23 illustrates (A) a comparison of hydropathy profiles (Kyte & Doolittle) by GeneJockey Sequence Processor [programm] program between SMBP (a) and the homologous proteins D87444 (b), Hu p76 (c), hMP70 (e), [and] Emp70 from yeast (d) and Arabidopsis protein (f). (B) Comparison of the hydropathy profiles (Kyte & Doolittle method) of the C-terminal hydrophobic region between SMBP (a) and the homologous proteins D87444 (b), Hu p76 (c) and Emp70 of yeast (d).

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

D⁵ Figure 24 illustrates the sequences (A) and positions (B) corresponding to the hydrophobic stretches (boxes in Fig. 24A), in relation to the nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO: 13) and protein (SEQ ID NO: 14) sequences.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 18, lines 10-14, with the following amended paragraph:

D⁶ The peptide corresponding to the N-terminal sequence of the 8 kDa fragment (Acetyl-FFQHRIHVFSIFNHC) (SEQ ID NO: 21) was coupled to KLH and the conjugate was used to raise antibody with high titer. The antibody response was observed at 2×10^{-5} dilution of antiserum and 0.08 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of affinity purified antibody ($\alpha 8$ -antibody) as assessed by ELISA against free peptide without conjugation to KLH (figure 7)--

Please replace the paragraph at page 35, lines 13-17, with the following paragraph:

D⁷ DNA sequencing data showed a continuous open reading frame (SEQ ID NO. 2 or NO. [14] 13), translation into protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1 or NO. [13] 14) showed several hydrophobic stretches (figure 23), suggesting that these regions are putative membrane spanning parts of the protein. The sequences corresponding to said hydrophobic stretches are highlighted (boxes) in figure 24.--

Please delete the sequence listing submitted on December 17, 2002, pages 39-49 and add new pages 1-30 of the paper copy of the corrected sequence listing submitted concurrently herewith.

Please delete page 50, which provides information with respect to a microbial deposit, and is not intended to be text of the patent specification.

IN THE CLAIMS